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8.28.02

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20213

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

In reply to the March 22, 2002 Official Action (Paper No. 8), favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested for the reasons set forth in the following remarks.

REMARKS

At the outset, it is noted that a shortened statutory response period of three (3) months was set forth in the March 22, 2002 Official Action. The initial due date for response, therefore, was June 22, 2002. A petition for a two (2) month extension of the response period is presented with this response, which is being filed within the two (2) month extension period.

08/29/2002 YCHADVIC 00000001 041404 In the March 22, 2002 Official Action, claims 1-18
01 FC:216 200.00 CH stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious based on the combined disclosures of U.S. Patent No. 5,410,016 to Hubbell et al. (hereinafter "Hubbell"), U.S. Patent No. 5,112,611 to Ahmad et al. (hereinafter "Ahmad"), U.S. Patent No. 5,531,917 to Nakayama et al. (hereinafter "Nakayama") and U.S. Patent No. 5,171,737 to Weiner et al. (hereinafter "Weiner"). According to the Examiner, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was